

New Information appears in red font

JSG intel appears in Italics

1.0 Background Information

JSG is leading response on this issue, including coordination with CBSA and the RCMP to address alternative movements across the border as well as managing the protest, including any enforcement that may be needed to disband the blockade.

The department relies on information that is provided by JSG through corporate channels as well as regional information for the information provided.

The police will determine how and when to apply sanctions under the TSA, the CIDA, and the Criminal Code – and all of those options are being considered.

2.0 Department's Role with Border Interactions or Enforcement

The Department's plays only a supporting role in interactions with border crossing or law enforcement decisions. The department, through our regional Highway Maintenance Contractor, would provide signage and suggest/manage traffic strategies to support the intended actions of law enforcement.

3.0 Current Status

All conditions related to this event are confirmed by the department as follows, at time of reporting:

Strategic traffic checkpoints have been established to re-route southbound traffic away from the Coutts congestion. This also prevents any additional protestors from accessing the main congestion location. RCMP are directing commercial traffic to the other border crossings at Carway on Highway 2, De Bonita on Highway 62, and Wildhorse on Highway 41.

Sheriffs and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) have been engaged and are at strategic locations for the other border crossings to ensure only legitimate commercial traffic passes through.

RCMP are allowing the HMC and department operations staff through the checkpoints to address highway maintenance and operations needs.

JSG does not report blockades on either the Canada or U.S. side at the alternate border crossing locations at this time.

JSG reports the following status at Coutts as of 11:30 hrs:

- *RCMP advise a few trucks left overnight on their own accord*
- *Enforcement action was initiated yesterday afternoon which was interrupted when protestors breached the perimeter which was set up by the RCMP*

- *Late this morning an additional slowdown protest took place near Crowsnest which has ended*
- *All tow companies approached by the RCMP are not interested in assisting. Companies have been contacted in Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC.*
- *Other tow options are being sought in Edmonton and through CN Rail*
- *RCMP currently trying to de-escalate the situation to gain compliance*
- *The attitude of the remaining protestors seems to have shifted and they are described as more "hostile"*
- *There are an estimated 100 semi-trucks remaining*
- *Logistics are being developed to further secure access to Del Bonita and Carway to prevent further blockades*

The Department has the following data to report regarding the impacts of the protest at Coutts:

- Traffic volumes near Coutts on Monday (January 31) and Tuesday (February 1) were less than half when compared to previous weekdays in January 2022.

Department discussion with CBSA

- CBSA is reporting about 1200 commercial carriers in and around Sweetgrass area waiting for the Coutts border to open.
- CBSA is working on a plan to clear the backlog of truckers quickly once the border opens.
- Extending service levels at Ports is being discussed at CBSA however matching resources to the Port service will be an issue.
- Carriers will consider the time implications and costs when making decisions as to whether to wait at Coutts or re-route to another port. CBSA reported traffic at Roosville/Grasmere Port just inside BC (Hwy 3) has seen increased traffic over the last few days.
- CBSA reported to the department on the evening of February 1st that Del Bonita and Carway Ports are operating 7 days a week till 10 pm and the US Ports are matching the service levels. However, the hours for Del Bonita, as reported by the website do not reflect this as of the morning of February 2nd.
- The department is reaching out to CBSA on the change and how to ensure we remain apprised of changes to the hours.

Current Ports of Entry Hour per CBA Website as of Time of Reporting

- CBSA Website currently indicates the following hours of operation:
 - Del Bonita has now extended hours of operation to 9am -10pm, Monday to Friday.
 - Carway has have been extended to 8am – 10 pm, seven days a week.
- Note: There are other land border crossings in the province (6 in total), however CBSA is focusing on accommodating extra traffic at the Del Bonita and Carway crossings, in order to manage their limited resources and recognizing that the United States counterpart at the border also needs to accommodate extended hours.
 - Some traffic may choose to divert to another crossing, but the department should only recommend the two crossings that CBSA have identified as preferred crossings (Del Bonita and Carway).

JSG has confirmed that there is no blockade on the U.S. side of the Coutts Border but Transportation has confirmed there are trucks backed up in one lane approaching the border from the U.S.

Communications with AMTA:

- On February 1, RCMP reached out to AMTA to see if there was any opportunity to acquire some tow truck support. AMTA has purposely been quiet for about the last week publicly and will remain neutral. Private tow truck operators may not wish to undertake the work at Coutts for fear of reprisal to their businesses or fear of the situation and their safety.
- AMTA is closely watching protester activity and implications on other routes in/out of Alberta.
- AMTA will be reaching out to their membership to share information on the situation and status of border today.

Calls to Action on Social Media and Planned Protest Activity

At 12:51hrs Feb 2, the department has received social media reports that Operation Bear Hug in Calgary intends to support convoy on Saturday, February 5, instead of February 2.

On February 2, CTV Calgary is reported about "Operation Bear Hug" that is calling for truckers to block major highways in Alberta today. The Reporter says he's heard people are planning to gather at the truck stop on Highway 1 near the Minister's house then park on the highway between Banff/Canmore.

JSG Reported that a group Farmers for Freedom have sent messages via text and other social media asking farmers to lockdown the country and province wide every day until mandates are lifted. Starting on Thursday February 3, 2022, at 12 noon for 3 hours. The ask is for every farmer available to hook up implements and to lockdown of every road.

Southern Region

By 10:00 hrs the department received reports from the Cochrane RCMP of planned protests for a convoy to blockade the WB lanes of Highway 1 at the Banff Park Gates today from 11 am to 6 pm. Also a report of an event moving to Highway 1 at Bowfort Road in Calgary.

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

By 12:00 hrs February 2, the department had received unconfirmed reports of protest activity planned at the following locations:

- Central Region Today (Feb 2) Highway 2 at Olds and Didsbury interchanges;
- Today (Feb 2) Highway 21/Hwy 42 intersection;
- Tomorrow (Feb 3) along Highway 2 from Ponoka to Lacombe from noon to 3pm;

Peace Region

By 12:00 hrs February 2, the department had received unconfirmed reports of planned protest activity around Grande Prairie. The plan for this is to apparently block only one lane, so that people can come and go.

Activity Reports from Across the Province:

Southern Region

February 2:

- At 13:30 hrs, department staff informed of slow rolling convoys on Highway 3 heading to meet up at Taber from Coaldale and Grassy Lake. [Unconfirmed]
- At 13:30 hrs, department staff reported slow moving convoys in the area of Fort Macleod on southbound Highway 2. [Confirmed]
- At 13:00 hrs, department field staff witnessed farm equipment and pick-ups with flags heading south of Fort Macleod on Highway 2 towards Standoff, also carrying portable washrooms. [Confirmed]
- At 12:45 hrs a slow rolling convoy on Southbound Highway 2 near Granum (Highway 519). [Confirmed]
- Report of slow rolling traffic and back-ups at Highway 23 & 519 Roundabout, via google traffic and Facebook. [Unconfirmed]
- At 12:00 hrs Highway 1 and Highway 22 intersection between Calgary and Fort Macleod was clear of protesters with RCMP maintaining a presence. Some reports of a few trucks assembling to head to Fort Macleod and convoy at Highway speeds. [Confirmed]
- At 11:30 hrs the department received information indicating that a large number of trucks and other vehicles heading southbound on Highway 2 near Nanton, unknown where they were going and if they were going to join the Fort Macleod group or head farther South. [Unconfirmed]
- The department received social media reports of protest activity on Highway 3 heading toward Crowsnest Pass, consisting of slow rolling large equipment. [Unconfirmed]
- At 11:00 hrs the department had received report of a slow rolling convoy doing loops on Highway 2 at Fort Macleod. [Unconfirmed]

February 1:

- At 19:47 hrs Wildcat convoys have been reported. Transportation has verified slow rolling convoys in Highways 3 & 36 at Town of Taber and also Highway 3 at Grassy Lake. [Confirmed]
- At 16:30 hrs 511 received information that Highway 4 was closed at southbound Highway 36 near Warner by the RCMP before 16:30 hrs in anticipation of a convoy. Transportation Region assisted. Additionally, Highway 519 at Highway 23 Nobleford was at a crawl for wildcat convoy. [Confirmed]
- At 16:01 hrs social media reports observed by the Region indicated the roundabout was clogged up at Highways 23 / 519 with vehicles. The roundabout is a main corridor for accessing Highway 1 to the north and trucks cutting across to Highway 2 to the west. [Confirmed]
- At 16:00 hrs Region MCI advised RCMP requested barricades to be set up at Highways 4 & 36 Southbound. [Confirmed]
- At 15:30 hrs 511 was contacted by the Cardston Shop and advised Highway 509 was obstructed. At about 19 hrs 511 received a Tweet from Blood Tribe Police Service that they had attended

the area at 13:40hrs to address a blockade along Highway 2 near the Waterton River Bridge north of Standoff. They conducted traffic until RCMP arrived and started rerouting traffic heading North bound along the Highway 2/509 intersection and advised public to avoid the area traffic until RCMP. At 18:15 another tweet from the Blood Tribe Police Service indicating the blockade was resolved and traffic was flowing.

- At 14:00 hrs, JSG indicated enforcement action was being taken.
- At 13:00 hrs Transportation reported a new blockade Hwy 2 South of Fort Macleod and reports of a potential convoy of farm equipment and tractor trailers heading west on Hwy 3 towards Pincher Creek/CNP. [Confirmed]

Milk River Blockade

February 2:

- Highway 4 at Highway 501 West remains closed by RCMP in both directions with an enhanced blockade. [Confirmed]

February 1:

- Transportation Region reports that this morning near Milk River, southbound still closed Highway 4 at Highway 501 West but RCMP have closed in both directions due to a collision between a driver, who was not part of the protest, heading northbound on Highway 4 and a protestor who was oriented southbound in the northbound lane
 - The only difference is that some trucks were allowed to cross the border Northbound on Highway 4 earlier. It is also reported by RCMP to Region staff that the weigh scale will be blocked by protesters this morning (February 2, 2022).
- Both directions still blocked to large vehicles, a small vehicle may possibly make its way through.
- *JSG report to Transportation staff indicates protestors are attempting to establish a new blockade at Highway 4 and 501 intersection South of Milk River where the RCMP Checkpoint is located. RCMP is requesting an emergency road closure at this location. The department supported the request as needed.*

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

No activity reported.

Central Region

No activity reported.

Peace Region

No activity reported.